

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10

LAB-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 DODE-00 PA-03 USIA-12

PRS-01 SS-14 NSC-10 NIC-01 RSR-01 OMB-01 SAJ-01 /113 W
----- 079764

R 020006 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6484
INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMCOSONSUL MELBOURNE
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L WELLINGTON 0829

E. O. 11652: GDS.
TAGS: ELAB NZ
SUBJ: SOVIET TRADE UNION OFFICIALS TOUR NEW ZEALAND

REF: WELLINGTON 0675

1. SUMMARY: ACCORDING TO FOL SECRETARY KNOX, VISIT

BY AUCCTU OFFICIAL BORIS A. AVERYANOV WAS SHORT AND UNEVENTFUL. AVERYANOV IN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE MEETINGS STRESSED SOVIET TRADE UNION DESIRE FOR CLOSER RELATIONS WITH NEW ZEALAND UNIONS. NO ANTI- U. S. STATEMENTS WERE NOTED. AVERYANOV CLAIMED TO HAVE CARRIED LETTER FROM SOVIET GOVERNMENT TO GNZ WHICH WILL UPGRADE SOVIET LEGATION IN WELLINGTON TO EMBASSY STATUS. END SUMMARY.

2. FOL SECRETARY KNOX GAVE EMBASSY A BRIEFING ON RECENT VISIT TO NEW ZEALAND BY HEAD OF AUCCTU INTERNATIONAL DEPARTMENT, BORIS A. AVERYANOV. KNOX CLAIMED AVERYANOV TOOK SOFT APPROACH TO RELATIONS BETWEEN AUCCTU AND WESTERN TRADE UNIONS. AVERYANOV STRESSED SIMILARITY OF PROBLEMS FACED BY UNIONS IN DIFFERING ECONOMIC SYSTEMS. HE NOTED INCREASED EXCHANGES BETWEEN AUCCTU AND ALL WESTERN UNION GROUPS, INCLUDING U. S. UNITED AUTO

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WORKERS (UAW). DIFFERENCES IN IDEOLOGY BETWEEN USSR AND U. S., HE SAID, SHOULD NOT KEEP TWO NATIONS OR TRADE UNIONS FROM FRIENDLY RELATIONS.

3. KNOX SAID AVERYANOV HAD HARD WORDS TO SAY CONCERNING SOVIET/ PRC RELATIONS. HE GAVE BRIEFING ON PRC ATTEMPTS TO TAKE SOVIET TERRITORY ALONG SOVIET/ PRC BORDER AND EMPHASIZED THAT PRC WILL NEVER GET THIS TERRITORY FROM THE SOVIETS. KNOX VOLUNTEERED THAT AVERYANOV GAVE IMPRESSION HE WAS MORE CONCERNED WITH CHINESE THAN WITH U. S.

4. KNOX ALSO STATED HE RECEIVED STRONG IMPRESSION THAT AVERYANOV WAS WELL TIED IN WITH SOVIET GOVERNMENT. SOVIET LEGATION STAFF IN WELLINGTON, KNOX CLAIMED, WENT OUT OF ITS WAY TO PLEASE AVERYANOV AND AT ONE POINT MOVED THE DATE OF A RECEPTION UP BY ONE DAY WHEN AVERYANOV DECIDED TO LEAVE NEW ZEALAND A DAY EARLIER THAN PLANNED. KNOX REVEALED AVERYANOV CLAIMED TO BOTH KNOX AND SKINNER THAT HE WAS CARRYING A LETTER ON BEHALF OF THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT TO THE GNZ WHICH WOULD FINALIZE THE ARRANGEMENTS TO UPGRADE THE SOVIET LEGATION TO EMBASSY STATUS. THE CURRENT SOVIET MINISTER, A. I. IVANTSOV, WOULD THEN BECOME THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR. KNOX SAID AVERYANOV, IN MAKING THIS REVELATION, CLAIMED THIS INDICATED INFLUENCE AUCCTU HAS IN SOVIET GOVERNMENT CIRCLES.

5. KNOX CLAIMED HE HAD RECD GOOD BRIEFING FROM AN UNNAMED SOURCE (PROBABLY GNZ) ON AVERYANOV, PARTICULARLY POSSIBILITY OF THE TIE BETWEEN HIM AND SOVIET SECURITY GROUP. AVERYANOV ALLUDED TO HIS BRIEF POSTING IN LONDON AS PART OF SOVIET EMBASSY STAFF IN EARLY 1960' S BY STATING HE HAD NOT DEVELOPED A CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WITH TUC LEADER VIC FEATHER, BUT THIS HAS NOW CHANGED AND AVERYANOV AND FEATHER HAVE A GOOD WORKING RELATIONSHIP .

6. COMMENT: VISIT RECD LITTLE MEDIA ATTENTION, AND AVERYANOV MADE CONTACT WITH LIMITED NUMBER OF NEW ZEALAND UNION LEADERS. IT APPEARS LIKELY FOL PRESIDENT SKINNER WILL VISIT USSR SOME TIME BETWEEN JUNE AND SEPTEMBER AT PERSONAL REQUEST OF AVERYANOV. IMPRESSION RECD FROM KNOX IS THAT VISIT OF THIS TYPE HELPS TO CREATE BETTER IMPRESSION OF SOVIET TRADE UNIONS AMONG NEW ZEALAND

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UNIONISTS. GDS.

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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